Sacred Heart Flitwick

26 April 2026

4th Sunday of Easter

OUR MISSION

Through the power of the Holy Spirit we will be a parish renewed in our knowledge and understanding of the love of Jesus Christ, to enable each of us to fulfil our Christian mission.

PARISH CATECHESIS FROM FR. JERRY

Theme: 'But he who enters by the door is the Shepherd of the sheep'

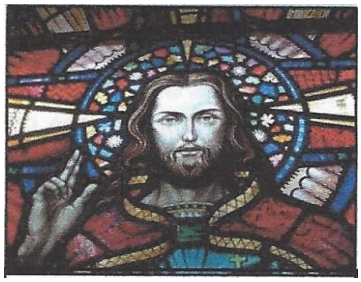
The Gospel reading recalls how Jesus speaks about himself using two familiar images. Firstly, as the Good Shepherd and also as the sheepfold, the gateway or the door by which the sheep enter eternal life. The Old Testament prophets, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, referred to the people of Israel as the 'flock' and their leaders as 'shepherds'. We have an explicit prayer in Psalm 23 which addresses the Lord as a Shepherd who guards, protects and cares for his sheep. Who are the Shepherds of today?
Jesus has come so that all may have life and have it abundantly. Those who came before him, purporting to give life, are described as thieves. These fake shepherds or leaders have intentions that are malevolent. Their motives for entering the position are wrong since they do not enter the sheepfold through the gate but through some other way. Also, the voices of fake leaders cannot be recognised by the sheep since they do not have any relationship with the flock. Jesus suggests that good shepherds enter the sheepfold through the gate. The shepherd has a sincere relationship with sheep; the sheep hear the voice of the shepherd, who calls and follows them out to pasture.

The catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that the Church is a sheepfold and that the sole and necessary gateway to it is Christ. God foretold that he himself would be the shepherd, whose sheep, even though governed by human shepherds, are cared for. The Church is unfailingly nourished and led by Christ himself, the Good Shepherd and Prince of Shepherds, who gave his life for his sheep (CCC#754). Jesus describes himself as the door gate to the sheepfold and nourishes the relationship between the sheep and other shepherds. Since the sheep know the voice of the shepherd, they follow him as he leads them out to green pastures. The Gospel of John clearly insists that Jesus is the only source of salvation. This contrasts with thieves, who will not bring salvation, as bad shepherds seek their own interests. May the celebration of the Eucharist remind us of Jesus as the welcoming shepherd who will be pleased to settle in the eternal pasture the sheep who have been redeemed by his precious blood.

CYCLE OF PRAYER FOR APRIL — NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 25 April	5.00 pm	Patrick and Marguerite McGrath, Anniversary, RIP; Nora McGrath, Anniversary, RIP
Sunday 26 April	9.00 am	Intentions of Fetuli Latu Who Is Very Ill
Sunday 26 April	11.00 am	Christina O'Neill, RIP
Tuesday 28 April	**7.00 pm**	David Gadsden, 1st Anniversary, RIP
Wednesday 29 April	9.30 am	Male, Pipiena, Lusio, Vika Mafi RIP *St Catherine of Siena, Virgin and Doctor of the Church*
Thursday 30 April	9.30 am	Ray Mahony, Birthday Anniversary, RIP
Friday 1 May	10.00 am	Deceased Family Members of Foong and Tong Families; Thanksgiving and Private Intentions of the Lewis, Tong and Yong Families **Eucharistic Adoration after Mass** *St Joseph the Worker*



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PRAYER LINE
Please ring 01525 643 186.

SVP
Members provide help to anyone in need. Please call Ann on 01462 239 268

CONFESSIONS
Before Mass on Friday and Saturday or on request.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Wednesday afternoon. Please contact Aggie Keeble.

MASS INTENTIONS
For Mass Intentions, call or email Aggie who will arrange for a Mass to be said. There are special envelopes in the foyer that you can fill in and leave in the sacristy.

DIARY DATES

TEA, COFFEE AND CHAT

You are welcome to join us for tea, coffee and chat after on **15 May, 19 June and 17 July.**

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

The Life in the Spirit seminars are returning in April, with sessions being held online to allow as many people as possible from the diocese to attend. The online sessions will be on **5, 12, 19 and 26 of May, and 2 June**. There will be an in-person baptism in the Holy Spirit retreat day, which will be held at Our Lady, Help of Christians, in Chapel Langley, Luton on **23 May.** Here is the link **https://northamptondiocese.org/life-in-the-spirit-seminars-2026/**

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join us for our next Men's Breakfast to share his hospitality **on Saturday 9 May 2026 from 10.00 am to 12.00** noon at Sacred Heart Church, Flitwick. **Please contact Suzanne Yates to book it by 28 April** on **smyates47@gmail.com.**

CHRISTIAN AID — BIG BREAKFAST

Please come to Big Brekkie at Sacred Heart Flitwick to support Christian Aid. It will take place on **Saturday 16 May between** 9.00 am and 11.00 am in the Canon Denis room. All welcome, please book a half-hour time slot by emailing **ctaf2021@outlook.com**



ROSARY IN MAY

May is the month during which we pray the rosary. We will pray 30 minutes before Mass during the week and at the weekend.

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Novena will begin on **15 May and continue through 23 May**, the day before Pentecost. The Novena prayers will be recited before each Mass.

CALLED AND EQUPPED 2026 - 2027

Want to go deeper in your faith? Is now the time to take the next step? Our year-long Called and Equipped discipleship course begins again this September, offering a foundation in Catholic teaching and a journey of faith formation, with a like-minded community. This course is for anyone active in parish life or coming into ministry. Find out more here: **https://northamptondiocese.org/called-equipped/**

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OTHER NOTICES

LIVE SIMPLY APRIL – READING MORE

I promise to find more about the lives of other children around the world. Reflection: Lack of education is as serious as a lack of food. Pope Paul VI, *Populorum Progressio.*

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

On 26 April we pray for those called to serve as priests and in religious life, that they may respond with generosity.

CAFOD APPEAL

On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help: 'So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a regular gift to support families who are fleeing the violence – with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: 'We will not abandon you; we will stand with you until peace is restored.' Donate at **https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/stand-with-sudan**

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER



St Joseph, the beloved spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and earthly father of Jesus, is celebrated twice by the Catholic Church every year — first on 19 March for the feast of St Joseph, husband of Mary, and again on1 May for the feast of St Joseph the Worker. While the saint's March feast dates back to the 10th century, his May feast wasn't instituted until 1955. Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St Joseph the Worker on 1 May 1955 so that it would coincide with International Workers Day, also known as May Day. During this time, the Soviet Union proclaimed themselves as the defender of workers and utilised May Day as an opportunity to exalt communism and parade its military prowess. Pope Pius XII chose the date specifically to ensure that workers did not lose the Christian understanding of work. In his address to the Catholic Association of Italian Workers on that day in 1955, Pius XII said: 'There could not be a better protector to help you penetrate the spirit of the Gospel into your life…From the heart of the Man-God, Saviour of the world, this spirit flows into you and into all men; but it is certain that no worker has ever been as perfectly and deeply penetrated by it as the putative father of Jesus, who lived with him in the closest intimacy and commonality of family and work.' He added: 'So, if you want to be close to Christ, We also today repeat to you 'Ite to Ioseph': Go to Joseph!' The Catholic Church has long placed an importance on the dignity of human work. By working, we fulfil the commands found in the Book of Genesis to care for the earth and be productive in our labours.

Taken from: https://ewtn.co.uk/article-the-story-behind-the-feast-of-st-joseph-the-worker/

MASS OFFERINGS
Standing orders are £860.00 weekly
The collection was £380.90
Thank you very much for your generosity
Finance Committee